



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

LATE MEMO

SUBMITTED: October 12, 2009
REVISED: October 29, 2009
RESUBMITTED: November 9, 2009
RESUBMITTED: November 25, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Special Fishing Regulations for Coolwater Species on Select Lakes
(FO-206)

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director to provide for better protection and preservation of fish, game and birds.

Discussion and Background:

On October 8, 2009, Director Humphries signed a version of Fisheries Order 206 (FO-206) that added special fishing regulations for coolwater species on several lakes. FO-206 is being resubmitted, however, because a regulation to manage harvest of walleyes from Mullett Lake (Cheboygan County) by State-licensed recreational anglers is necessary. This new Order is identified as Fisheries Order 206.10A (FO-206.10A).

A regulation change to manage harvest of walleyes from Mullett Lake (Cheboygan County) by State-licensed recreational anglers is, given current circumstances, necessary because of the low abundance of adult walleyes in the lake. In 2009, the State conducted a survey of the population of walleyes inhabiting Mullett Lake, which resulted in an estimate of 2,648 adult walleyes in the lake. Although a low population estimate was expected, the estimate of adult walleyes in Mullett Lake calculated this year is well below our worst prediction.

To protect the population of adult walleyes in Mullett Lake through at least the 2010 fishing season (April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011), we are recommending changes to the bag limit and the season length for Mullett Lake and specific river sections directly associated with Mullett Lake. The changes to regulations that we are recommending, if approved by the Director, will be reviewed with the public again during the summer and fall of 2011. These recommended changes are needed to protect adult walleyes in Mullett Lake. The changes will be necessary until additional information can be gained about 1) the dynamics driving the population

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

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abundance of walleyes in Mullett Lake, and 2) about what impairments may be suppressing successful reproduction of walleyes in the lake.

We are facilitating the establishment of a citizens' fishery advisory committee comprised of members from throughout the inland waterway and, with their help and that of the 1836 Tribes, begin a multi-year, chain-wide review and assessment. The effort to gather the necessary information with the help of the advisory committee and the Tribes will hopefully lead to the identification of corrective actions and ultimately the ability to relax regulations for harvest of walleyes, once those actions have been implemented and the population of adult walleyes has improved.

Additional public review of and input on proposed changes to regulations was gathered via a meeting that was held on Monday November 23, 2009 with stakeholders, concerned citizens, fishing groups, and local chambers of commerce from across the inland waterway. The group reached consensus on the recommendations being proposed for fishing walleyes on Mullett Lake and in specific river sections during the 2010 fishing season (April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011).

Recommendation:

The regulation changes being proposed will apply to Mullett Lake proper, the Cheboygan River from Mullett Lake downstream to the Cheboygan Dam (T38N, R1W, Sec. 31) and the Black River from Alverno Dam (T37N, R1W, Sec. 35) downstream to its confluence with the Cheboygan River. In these areas, the bag limit for harvest of walleyes by State-licensed anglers will be three (3) walleyes per angler per day, and the season for harvest of walleyes by State-licensed anglers will be from May 15 to March 15, inclusive. These proposed changes, if adopted, will apply for the 2010 fishing season (April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011).

This order was submitted for information and consideration at the November 5, 2009 Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's October and November 2009 calendars and may be eligible for approval on December 3, 2009.

Kelley D. Smith, Chief
Fisheries Division

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

David E. Freed, Chief
Land and Facilities

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

I approve the staff recommendation.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

Date Approved

ORDER

SPECIAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR COOLWATER SPECIES ON SELECT LAKES

By authority conferred on the Department of Natural Resources by sections 41101 through 41105 of 1994, PA 451, as amended, being MCL 324.41101 through 324.41105, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources on December 3, 2009, ordered that for a period not to exceed five years, the following special regulations are established for the listed lakes:

ALGER COUNTY

Echo and Duck Lakes on Grand Island

1. Smallmouth bass:
- (a) Possession Limit: zero (0).

BARRY COUNTY

Thornapple Lake

1. Muskellunge:
- (a) Minimum size: 50 inches.

Williams Lake

1. Possession limit: zero (0).
2. Season: Last Saturday in April – December 15.

CASS COUNTY

Corey Lake (T6S, R13W, S24)

1. Largemouth bass:
- (a) Minimum size: 10 inches.

Stone Lake (T6S, R15W, S35)

1. Largemouth bass:
- (a) Minimum size: 10 inches.

CHEBOYGAN COUNTY:

Mullett Lake and Specific River Sections

1. Area included:
 - Mullett Lake proper
 - Cheboygan River from Mullett Lake downstream to Cheboygan Dam (T38N, R1W, S31).
 - Black River from Alverno Dam (T37N, R1W, S35) downstream to its confluence with the Cheboygan River.
2. Daily possession limit for walleyes: three (3) walleyes per angler per day.
3. Season for harvest of walleyes: May 15 through March 15, inclusive.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Wakeley Lake (T26N, R2W, S23)

1. Gear Restrictions: Artificial lures only. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food or scented material at any time on the shore or water.

2. Season: June 15 - August 31.
3. Possession limit: zero (0). Catch and release only.

DICKINSON COUNTY

Hamilton, Louise, and Mary Lakes (T39N, R28-29W)

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
 - (a) Possession limit: zero (0) from Last Saturday in May - June 20.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

Arbutus Lake

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
 - (a) Minimum size: 10 inches.

Spider Lake (T26N, R10W, S9,10)

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
 - (a) Minimum size: 10 inches

IONIA COUNTY

Woodward Lake (T8N, R6W, S8)

1. Walleye:
 - (a) Possession limit: zero (0).

IRON COUNTY

Fire Lake

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
 - (a) Possession limit: one (1).
 - (b) Minimum size: 18 inches

Indian Lake

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
 - (a) Possession limit: one (1).
 - (b) Minimum size: 18 inches.

Ottawa Lake

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
 - (a) Possession limit: zero (0).

Winslow Lake (T46N, R36W, S36)

1. Walleye:
 - (a) Possession limit: zero (0).

KALKASKA COUNTY

Cub Lake (T27N, R5W, S19)

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
 - (a) Minimum size: 10 inches.

LAKE COUNTY

Big Bass Lake (T20N, R14W, S34)

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
 - (A) Minimum size: 10 inches.

LEELANAU COUNTY

North Manitou Lake (T32N, R14W, S29, 32)

1. Gear Restrictions: Artificial lures only. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food or scented material at any time on the shore or water.
2. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
 - (a) Possession limit: one (1).
 - (b) Minimum size: 18 inches.

Florence Lake (T31N, R15W, S9)

1. Gear Restrictions: Artificial lures only. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food or scented material at any time on the shore or water.

LUCE COUNTY

Twin Lakes (T45N, R10W, S10,11)

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
 - (a) Possession limit: one (1).
 - (b) Minimum size: 18 inches.

MARQUETTE COUNTY

Deer Lake Basin (T48N, R27W, S27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34), Carp River downstream from M-28 (T47N, R27W, S4) and all other tributaries to Deer Lake Basin

1. Gear Restrictions: Artificial lures only. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food or scented material at any time on the shore or water.
2. Possession limit: zero (0). Catch and release only.

Fish Lake (T47N, R29W, S5, 6, 8)

1. Largemouth and smallmouth bass:
 - (a) Possession limit: one (1).
 - (b) Minimum size: 18 inches.

MONTMORENCY COUNTY

North and South Blue and Robarge (Pike) Lakes

1. Gear Restrictions: Artificial lures only.
2. Season: Last Saturday in April - September 30.
3. Possession limit: zero (0). Catch and release only.

NEWAYGO COUNTY

Sand Lake (T11N, R13W, S19)

1. Channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bullhead:
 - (a) Possession limit: zero (0).

Brush Lake (T14N, R12W, S1)

1. Channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bullhead:
 - (a) Possession limit: zero (0).

Baptist Lake (T11N, R11W, S23, 24)

1. Channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bullhead:
 - (a) Possession limit: zero (0).

OGEMAW COUNTY

Jewett Lake (Rifle River Recreation Area)

1. In addition to a valid Michigan fishing license, anglers must possess a valid Jewett Lake fishing permit.
2. Gear Restrictions: Artificial lures only.
3. Season: May 15 – September 30.
4. Possession limit: zero (0).

ONTONAGON COUNTY

Lake of the Clouds (T15N, R43W, S21,22)

1. Gear Restrictions: Artificial lures only. It shall be unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead bait, organic or processed food or scented material at any time on the shore or water.
2. Smallmouth bass:
 - (a) Possession limit: zero (0).

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

Corey Lake (T6S, R12W, S17, 18, 19, 20, 29)

1. Largemouth bass:
 - (a) Minimum size: 10 inches.

Sand Lake (T6S, R10W, S27, 34)

1. Flathead catfish:
 - (a) Possession limit: zero (0).

Big Pleasant Lake

1. Largemouth bass:
 - (a) Minimum size: 10 inches.

WASHTENAW COUNTY

Horseshoe Lake

1. Largemouth bass:
 - (a) Possession limit: one (1).
2. Northern pike:
 - (a) Possession limit: one (1).
3. Bluegill, pumpkinseed, redear, green sunfish, black and white crappies, warmouth bass, and rock bass:
 - (a) Possession limit: ten (10).

This order shall be assigned number FO-206.10A, and is entitled "Special Fishing Regulations for Coolwater Species on Select Lakes."

This order supersedes FO-206 entitled "Special Fishing Regulations for Coolwater Species on Select Lakes," which was signed October 8, 2009, and was scheduled to be effective April 1, 2010.

This order shall take effect on April 1, 2010. This order shall remain in effect until March 31, 2015 or until this order is amended/rescinded, whichever comes first. Although this order may be reviewed and amended on an annual basis, a review of this order shall occur no later than August 1, 2014.

Issued on the _____ day of _____, 2009.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

The Natural Resources Commission has reviewed this order.

Keith J. Charters
Chairperson

Teresa Gloden
Executive Secretary